

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a split bearing arrangement, in which in several machining stations a top bearing part is separated in a predefined fracture plane from a ~~base~~-basic bearing part monolithically connected thereto via a fracture separation process by applying force, whereupon the two parts are joined back together by means of a screw connection comprising at least two screws, ~~characterised in that~~

the ~~base~~-basic bearing part and the top bearing part are fixed on an adapter device that is conveyed from one machining station to another while the top bearing part is retained at least during some processes in the machining stations via a retractable auxiliary support disposed on the adapter device and engaging the top bearing part outside the area of the screw connection,

the basic bearing part and the top bearing part are subjected to a release and cleaning process in the fracture plane after the fracture separation process, and

the location of the top bearing part is accurately fixed in parallel to the fracture plane with respect to the basic bearing part during the release and cleaning process, whilst the top bearing part is held in a loose manner in a direction perpendicular to the fracture plane.
2. (Currently amended) The method as according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~base~~-basic bearing part is clamped to the adapter device in all the machining stations.
3. (Currently amended) The method as according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein there are main supports acting resiliently upon the top bearing part during the fracture separation process.

4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) The method as according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ 1, wherein the release process is carried out by vibrating or impacting action.
6. (Currently amended) The method as according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ 1, wherein the cleaning process is carried out by blowing, suctioning or brushing off.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently amended) The method as according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a fracture separation groove is incorporated in the fracture plane by a laser prior to the fracture separation process.
9. (Currently amended) The method as according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims 1 to 8, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the screws are inserted and tightened at a predetermined torque after the release and cleaning process.
10. (Currently amended) The method as according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims 1 to 9, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the conveyance of the adapter device to and from the individual machining stations is carried out via a carousel arrangement.
11. (Currently amended) A device for producing a split bearing arrangement, in which the workpiece consisting of a ~~base~~ basic bearing part (5) and a top bearing part (6) monolithically connected thereto is conveyed at least to a fracture separation station for separating the top bearing part (6) from the ~~base~~ basic bearing part (5) along a fracture plane and to a screwing station for joining back together the top bearing part and the ~~base~~ basic bearing part by means of at least a screw connection comprising two screws, ~~characterised in that~~

a transport mechanism (2) is provided, via which an adapter device (1) supporting the workpiece is conveyed from one machining station to at least one subsequent machining station, with said adapter device (1) being equipped with a retractable auxiliary support (13) which is fixed to said adapter device so as to engage the top bearing part (6) of the workpiece outside the screw connection, and

a release and cleaning station is provided following the fracture separation station, in which a fixing means is provided for an accurate fixation in location in parallel to the fracture plane and for a loose hold in a direction perpendicular to the fracture plane.

12. (Currently amended) The production device as according to claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein clamping cylinders (9) interacting with counterstops (7, 8) are arranged on the adapter device (1) for clamping the base bearing part (5) to said adapter device.
13. (Currently amended) The production device as according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~ for carrying out the method as according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein main supports (15) are provided in the fracture separation station, which are brought into resilient abutment against the top bearing part (6) during the fracture separation process.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Currently amended) The production device as according to claim ~~14~~ 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the release and cleaning station is ~~provided~~ equipped with a vibration or impacting device (19) which acts upon the top bearing part (6).

16. (Currently amended) The production device as according to claim ~~14~~11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the release and cleaning station is equipped with a blowing, suctioning or brush device.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Currently amended) The production device as according to claim ~~17~~, ~~characterised in that~~ 11, wherein the fixing means ~~(16)~~ comprises fixing and holding pins ~~(17)~~ which can be inserted into the bores for the screws.
19. (Currently amended) The production device as according to claim 18 for a screw connection comprising two screws, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein two fixing and holding pins ~~(17)~~ are provided, which are linked together at one end via a yoke ~~(18)~~.
20. (Currently amended) The production device as according to claim 19, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the yoke ~~(18)~~ is connected to a feed cylinder.
21. (Currently amended) The production device as according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a laser station is provided before the fracture separation station.
22. (Currently amended) The production device as according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a screwing station is provided after the release and cleaning station, in which screwing station the screws are inserted and tightened at a predetermined torque via a screwing device.
23. (Currently amended) The production device as according to ~~one or more of claims 11 to 22~~ claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the transport mechanism (2) is ~~substantially~~ essentially designed as a carousel arrangement (21), with the machining stations being distributed about its periphery.

24. (Currently amended) The production device as according to claim 23, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a loading and unloading station, a laser station, a fracture separation station, a release and cleaning station, as well as a screwing station are provided in the region of the carousel arrangement (21).
25. (Currently amended) The production device as according to claim 24, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the loading and unloading station, the screwing station and the laser station, as well as the fracture separation station and the release and cleaning station are each combined into a double station.